



NAVAL AIR STATION ALAMEDA

FACT SHEET #3: REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/ FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

MAY 1991

INTRODUCTION

Since the early 1980s, the U.S. Navy has been investigating potential contamination of the environment from past use of hazardous materials at the Naval Air Station (NAS) in Alameda, California. These investigations are being conducted under the U.S. Department of Defense's Installation Restoration (IR) program, overseen by the California Department of Health Services (DHS) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Investigations have identified 20 sites with actual or potential contamination on the NAS Alameda property.

NAS Alameda began sampling soil and groundwater at these 20 sites in spring 1990 to determine the nature and extent of the contamination problems. This fact sheet summarizes the progress that has been made in sampling work at NAS Alameda; the results of the work that has

been done; the results of the preliminary public health evaluation; and the future activities that are planned for further investigation and cleanup of the site.

SITE OVERVIEW

NAS Alameda is located at the west end of the island of Alameda, in Alameda and San Francisco Counties, California. NAS Alameda occupies 2,634 acres and is approximately two miles long and one mile wide. Most of the eastern portion of the Air Station has been developed with offices and industrial facilities, while runways and support facilities occupy the western part. (See Exhibit 2).

Hazardous waste contamination at NAS Alameda is the result of numerous routine operations conducted at the facility between the 1940s and late 1970s. This was a period when relatively little was known about the impacts of hazardous materials and when

stringent federal and State hazardous waste disposal regulations were not in effect. Typical NAS Alameda operations during this time included metal plating; paint removal; aircraft maintenance, fueling and engine testing; vehicle fueling; pest control; missile reworking; operation of a power plant and a fire station; and waste disposal at two landfill sites on base.

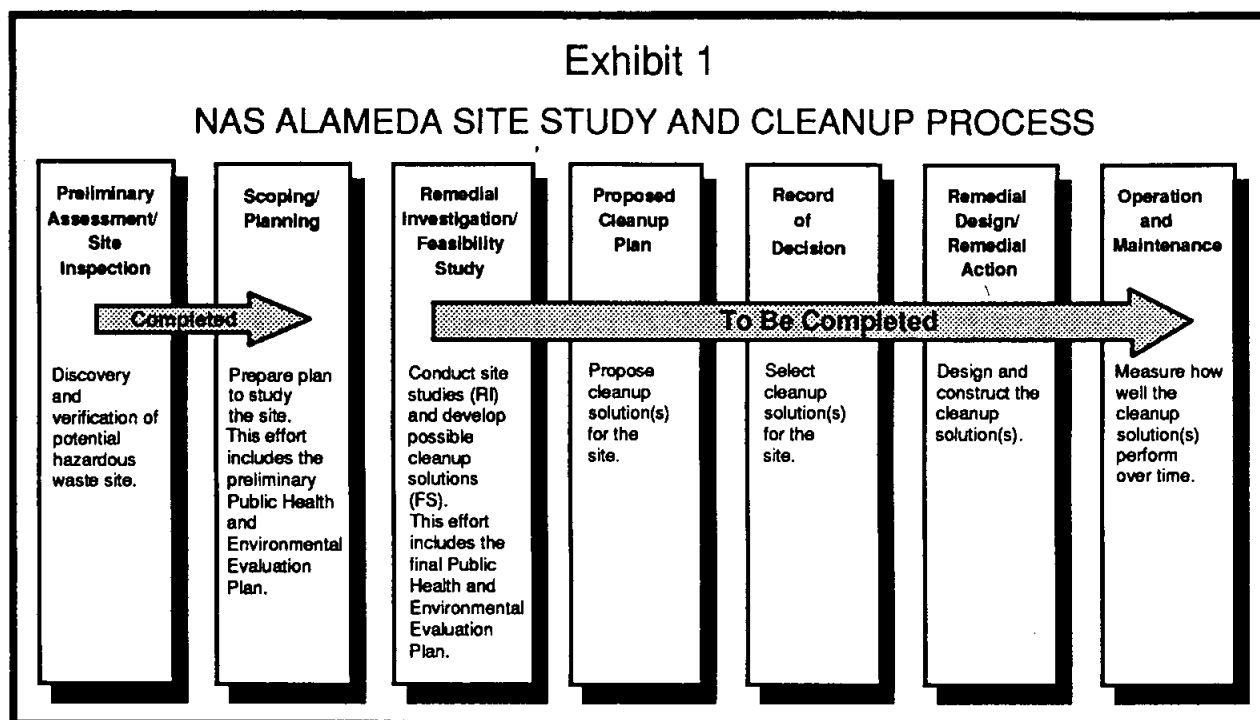
The known or suspected contaminants that have been identified to date include heavy metals; aviation fuel; organic compounds, including benzene, toluene, and xylene; plating chemicals; solvents; paint; pesticides; oil and grease; and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The preliminary studies indicate that none of the identified sites poses an immediate threat to public health. NAS Alameda has distributed a fact sheet to workers on the base that gives details on the areas of contamination and proper safety procedures to avoid exposure to contaminated materials.

THE INSTALLATION RESTORATION (IR) PROGRAM

The IR program is the U.S. Department of Defense's effort to identify and clean up environmental contamination from past operations at all U.S. military installations across the country. The IR program complies with all State and federal laws regarding cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Since 1980, the Navy has been actively involved in the IR program and has taken an aggressive approach to addressing the problem of hazardous waste sites at Navy installations nationwide.

The IR process involves seven steps, as illustrated in Exhibit 1. At NAS Alameda, the first two steps -- the Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection and Scoping/Planning -- have been completed. The next major milestone will be the completion of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI/FS serves to determine the extent of soil or groundwater contamination in areas identified as potential waste release sites.

The California Department of Health Services (DHS) is the lead regulatory agency for the IR cleanup at NAS Alameda. DHS reviews work plans and reports and meets with the Navy to ensure that all cleanup activities continue to comply with State and federal laws.



PROGRESS ON SITE SAMPLING TO DATE

Sampling at NAS Alameda began in March 1990. Phase 1 and Phase 2A of the RI/FS have been completed. The results of these studies are expected to be released in June 1991.

Phase 1 investigations focused on the 1943-1956 Disposal Area and the West Beach Landfill (Numbers 1 and 2 on Exhibit 2). Included among the activities was the initiation of the Solid Waste Assessment Test (SWAT). The SWAT has two purposes: to check for the presence of landfill contaminants in groundwater underneath the landfills that may be moving away from the area and spreading the contamination, and to check for possible emissions of landfill gases to the air. The SWAT is being performed to fulfill the requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Phase 1 activities for the two landfill areas also included radiation surveying, surface soil sampling, air sampling, deep exploratory borings, laboratory chemical analysis of air and soil samples, geotechnical testing, and surveying.

Phase 2A investigations covered Building 360, Building 547, Building 410, Building 530, the Cans

C-2 area, the Oil Refinery area, Yard D-13, and Area 97 (Numbers 4, 7, 9, 10, 16, 13, 19, and 3 on Exhibit 2, respectively). Work included 55 soil borings, 31 monitoring wells, soil gas surveying, air sampling, ground water sampling, laboratory chemical analysis on soil, air, and ground water samples, geotechnical testing, and surveying.

The results of Phases 1 and 2A will be used to identify and evaluate appropriate remedial action measures to mitigate any contamination that has already occurred on the Base.

CURRENT SITE SAMPLING ACTIVITIES: PHASES 5 AND 6

The collection of soil and groundwater data for the Solid Waste Assessment Test (SWAT) is included in Phases 5 and 6 of the sampling program. These activities include the installation of 72 groundwater monitoring wells at the two landfills. Also included are geophysical surveys, geotechnical analyses, laboratory chemical analyses of soil and groundwater samples, and preparation of the SWAT report. Data generated from these activities will be used to assess groundwater quality and hydrogeological conditions underneath the landfills. These data also will be included in the RI/FS. Phases 5 and 6 sampling activities were initiated during Fall 1990 and are scheduled to be completed during Fall 1992.

UPCOMING SITE SAMPLING ACTIVITIES

Phases 2B and 3: Phases 2B and 3 activities will include investigations at the Fire Training Area; Building 360; Building 5; Building 41; Building 162; Building 459; Building 114; Building 400; Building 14; Building 10; Building 301; and Building 389. The investigations will include soil gas surveys, air monitoring, the installation of groundwater monitoring wells, geotechnical analyses, and laboratory chemical analyses of groundwater, soil and air samples. Sampling activities for Phases 2B and 3 will begin in Spring 1991, and are scheduled to be completed during Winter 1991. As with the other RI/FS phases, results of these investigations will be used to identify and evaluate appropriate remedial action measures.

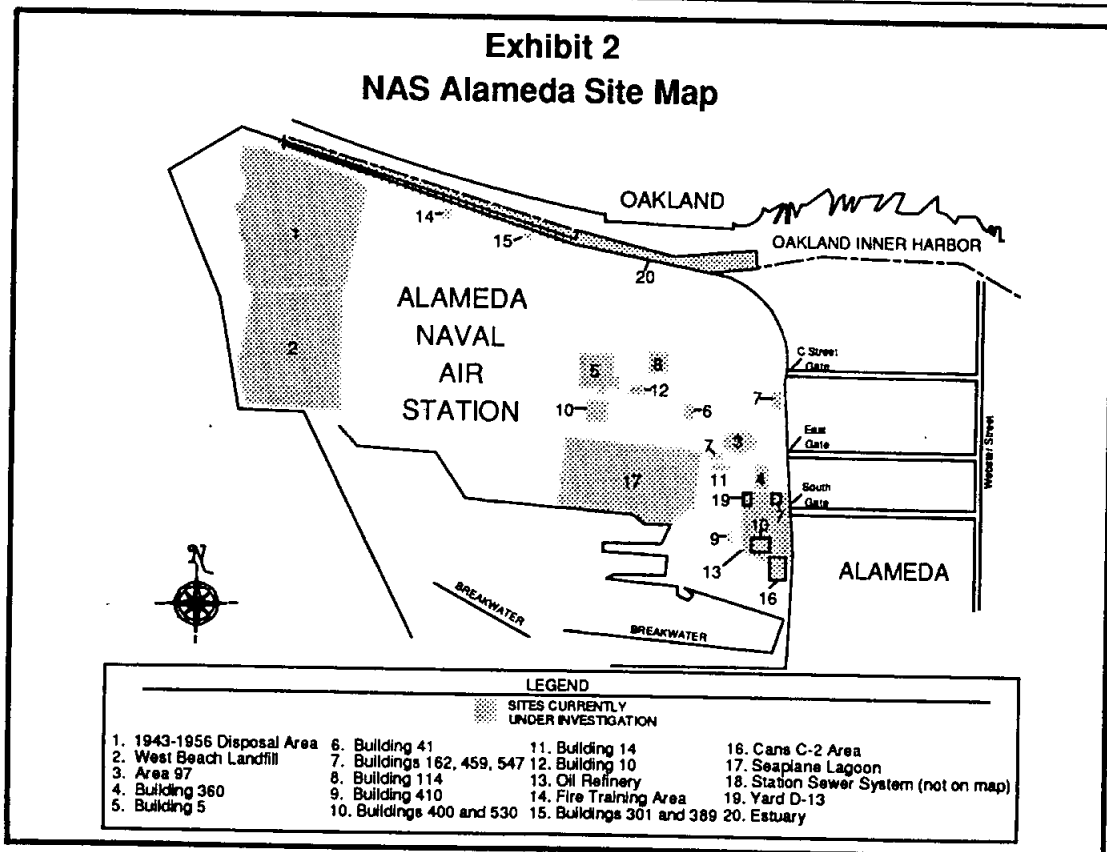
Phase 4: Sampling at the Seaplane Lagoon and estuary, geared towards public health, has been approved by DHS as part of the RI/FS. However, other regulatory agencies including the RWQCB, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Department of Interior, and the California Fish and Game are concerned about the adequacy of sampling in terms of environmental assessment. An Ecological Assessment Plan will be prepared to address both the public health and environmental concerns. The preparation of this Plan may be completed within three months.

JP-5 JET FUEL SPILL AT BUILDING 397

A bleed valve for JP-5 jet fuel on a test cell at NAS Alameda was inadvertently left open during testing from January 21 through March 1, 1991. As much as 17,000 gallons of JP-5 fuel (a hazardous substance) may have been released to the oil/water separators outside the building. Heavy rainfall caused the separators to overflow into the adjacent storm and industrial sewers. Both sewers had been previously blocked; the JP-5 fuel was contained in them.

In immediate response, 34,350 gallons of rainwater contaminated with JP-5 was hauled away as hazardous waste. An additional 63,550 gallons were temporarily stored in the concrete augmentor pit beneath the test cells, then disposed of as hazardous waste. For safety, the roadway area next to the spill was barricaded.

A thorough engineering investigation has begun to determine the cause(s) of the spill, to identify other source(s) of contamination, and to recommend clean-up measures for the site. A workplan will be submitted to the regulatory agencies for approval. The work could include drilling soil borings and groundwater monitoring wells. Remediation could begin following regulatory approval of a clean-up measure.



NEW DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE INFORMATION REPOSITORY

A number of new technical documents are available for public review at the Information Repository for NAS Alameda (see below for location and hours). NAS Alameda has placed the laboratory chemical analyses for the ten areas investigated in Phases 1 and 2A of the RI/FS in the repository. Individual technical reports on air sampling, geotechnical activities, boring and well drilling logs, soil-gas investigations, and survey data are included.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This fact sheet is part of the on-going community relations program to keep individuals informed of cleanup activities at NAS Alameda.

If you have any questions about the upcoming investigations at NAS Alameda, please contact:

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Copies of the community relations plan and all site-related documents are available at the information repository in Alameda:

	HOURS	
Alameda Public Library		
Main Branch	Monday & Wednesday	9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
2264 Santa Clara Avenue	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday	9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Alameda, California 94501	Sunday	Closed
(415) 522-5413		

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